

Sole Source Notification

PROJECT STRONGER TOGETHER **GRANT PROGRAM**

Response Deadline: October 24, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

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Sole Source Posting

Project Stronger Together Grant Program Program Description and Requirements

Background

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) was created in 1999 (Senate Bill 241) with the responsibility for insuring over two million people in the State of Georgia to maximize the State's health care purchasing power, to coordinate health planning for state agencies, and to propose cost-effective solutions to reducing the numbers of uninsured. Within the Department, the State Office of Rural Health works to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas and to reduce health status disparities. Rural Georgians are more likely to be under-insured or uninsured.

Sole Source Justification

Project Stronger Together is a Collaborative Technical Assistance (CTA)/Capacity Development (CD) demonstration grant for the coordination and delivery of a continuum of HIV/AIDS related services in minority communities. In response to the Project Stronger Together Grant Program, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Office of Health Improvement has identified AID Atlanta (a community-based health center that provides a comprehensive array of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services), Wholistic Stress Control Institute (a community-based minority serving organization) and Mary Hall Freedom House (a substance abuse and/or mental health program) as the intended grantee for the Project Stronger Together Grant Program. Each grantee will be awarded the sum of \$45,000 per year for the three year grant period.

The purpose of this document is to provide the sole source justification(s) naming AID Atlanta, Wholistic Stress Control Institute (WSCI) and Mary Hall Freedom House (MHFH) to offer portions of the grant required services. In awarding this sole source DCH sought to identify organizations which have the expertise, infrastructure and capacity to provide appropriate CTA/CD as it pertains to HIV/AIDS services. These organizations were also identified as having extensive experience as or with Community Based Minority Serving Organizations (CBMSO) and are established and ingrained into the metro Atlanta Community possessing a proven track record to facilitate the grant requirements.

The selection of the above named organizations is in keeping with the grant requirement to increase the number of CBMSO with the programmatic capacity to provide appropriate and effective HIV/AIDS services to specific sub population including re-entry population, substance abusers, women in transition and individuals impacted by mental disorders. With the exception of AID Atlanta (which has a plurality of service areas with and without demographic focus) WSCI and MHFH have developed specializations in the demographic sub populations. Collectively these organizations possess over sixty years experience in their respective service delivery area(s) as well as being extremely adept in the provision of comprehensive and multi-dimensional technical assistance to increase, develop and improve effective service delivery capacity for HIV prevention and treatment by CBMSO in the greater Metro Atlanta area.

AID Atlanta is the Metro Atlanta's premier AIDS Service Organization (ASO). Since its inception in 1982 as a grassroots organization *AID Atlanta* has grown and expanded its services and now has the distinction of being the largest and most comprehensive ASO in the Southeast United States. *AID Atlanta* services include but are not limited to: HIV educational classes, HIV testing and counseling, case management and referrals, primary healthcare, mental health assessments and inmate discharge planning services. As a CBMSO *AID Atlanta's* client population is representative of the HIV/AIDS infected population in Metro Atlanta. The majority of those served by the organization are minority (75% African American, 18% white, 6% Latino, and 1% are other). *AID Atlanta's* program staff has developed specialized expertise by serving on various committees and taskforces including: Intervention and membership Committees of Georgia Community Planning Group, the Ryan White Planning Council and its sub-committees and task forces to consist of: the Quality Management Committee, Ryan White Comprehensive Planning Committee, Case Management task force, Minority AIDS initiative task force and the Medical Providers Task Force.

AID Atlanta has a very extensive record of Capacity Building Experience to include: Volunteer training through AIDS 101 training over 200 new counselors in a five year period, HIV counseling and testing trainings, speaker's bureau trainings, case management and hotline development. *AID Atlanta* has consulted with Russia to assist in the development of a HIV hotline, developed and trained the Chatham County health department on the model of centralized case management used at *AID Atlanta*, sent case managers to Rwanda with the assistance of CARE International to consult on case management and train lay persons in case management.

Wholistic Stress Control Institute, Inc. (WSC/) is an award winning CBMSO which provides a variety of community prevention and intervention programs in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. *WSC/* provides a variety of free community prevention and intervention programs targeted primarily to African American youths and adults in the areas of HIV/AIDS, mental health, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency and violence. *WSC/* has extensive experience interacting with leadership and existing provider systems to include working on coalitions, consortiums, task forces and committees and has been member of the HIV Planning Council for over fifteen years. *WSC/* has also provided direct services to several minority Aids Service Organizations.

Since 1991 *WSC/* has provide other community organizations with technical assistance and capacity building and served as the lead and fiscal agent for 15 federally funded coalitions ten of which provided HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, counseling and referral services. In 1996, *WSC/* also was successful in implementing systems change in the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Policy to provide statewide uniformed HIV/AIDS screening, counseling and testing to all juveniles who request these services the results of this technical assistance was increased HIV/AIDS services for incarcerated minority youth populations. *WSC/* is one of three minority CBO's to receive a four contract to provide HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services to incarcerated minority youth and young adults with the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). *WSC/* partnered with AIDS

	<p>Atlanta to provide technical assistance to the Georgia Department of Public Health regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services to incarcerated minority youths and adults. Additionally WSCI has provided technical assistance to SAMHSA, Atlanta's Women's Foundation and Georgia Department of State. In 2000-2001 WSCI was the recipient of two Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) grants to develop a fiscal management and grassroots social marketing manual. This was followed by a 2006 RWJF grant to provide technical assistance to 10 minority grassroots organizations in New Orleans to address the aftermath of hurricane(s) Katrina and Rita.</p> <p>Mary Hall Freedom House (MHFH) is licensed by the State of Georgia, Department of Human Resources to Provide Residential treatment. Currently, MHFH operates an 87 bed residential substance abuse treatment program serving single women and women with children. Since its inception MHFH has assisted 2500 women in improving the quality of their lives by gaining independence and sobriety and overcoming homelessness. The majority of those served by MHFH are minority (78% African American, 21% White or Caucasian, 1% Latina or Hispanic).</p> <p>In 1995 to better address the needs of their patients <i>MHFH</i> began addressing HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in minority communities. <i>MHFH</i> found that at any given time 15 – 30% of their target population may diagnosed with Herpes, tuberculosis or test positive for Hepatitis B or C and HIV. <i>MHFH</i> mobilized its efforts to confront HIV/AIDS through regular and ongoing HIV/AIDS prevention services and education to include educational forums, public service announcements, pamphlets, brochures and flyers all targeted toward minority women. <i>MHFH</i> has worked with WSCI as well as with other community collaborators to include St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Care Services, Aids Survival Project, the Living Room and Jerusalem House to plan strategize and develop new approaches for educating targeted groups regarding the impact and ongoing treatment of HIV/AIDS in the minority communities.</p>
<p>Specific Requirements/Expectations</p>	<p>As a Project Stronger Together Grant Program Grantee, <i>AID Atlanta</i>, <i>Wholistic Stress Control Institute</i> and <i>Mary Hall Freedom House</i> activities will center on capacity building, enhancing infrastructure and systems change. To that end the Offeror(s) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify and screen thirty (30) CBMSO's for participation in PST. ➤ Provide bi-monthly eight (8) hour workshops/ training for the CBMSO to increase programmatic, administrative and fiscal capacity. ➤ Provide at a minimum 20 hours of direct personal administrative technical assistance to improve the fiscal and organizational capacity for the CBMSO's. ➤ Provide CBMSO's with sources for programmatic technical assistance and link the participants with these sources. ➤ Work with CBMSO's to develop strong linkages with other service providers to complete a continuum of prevention and treatment services specifically for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Total Funds Available	\$405,000.00
Award Ceiling	\$135,000.00
Funding Cycle	September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2011
Response Deadline: October 24, 2008, 4:00 p.m.	<p><u>HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS SOLE SOURCE VERIFICATION</u></p> <p>DCH presents this project as a sole source in that DCH has not been able to identify any potential grantees, other than the intended sole source contractor, that meet the minimum qualifications and can provide the specified services.</p> <p>Any potential grantee that meets the minimum qualifications and can provide the specified services must respond via e-mail or delivery (no later than 4:00 on October 24, 2008) to the DCH Grant Administrator at kblack@dch.ga.gov and identify its interest in being considered as a potential grantee for <u>Project Stronger Together Grant Program</u>. Please provide specific information related to how it meets all of the minimum qualifications.</p> <p>If the Department receives one or more viable respondents, other than the intended sole source contractor, that are verified as meeting the minimum qualifications, then a full grant application process will be conducted.</p>